

**Amendments to the Claims**

Kindly amend the claims in accordance with the following complete listing of claims.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) A crank shaft power takeoff system according to claim [[1]] 6, wherein the appliance is a lawn mower.
3. (Currently amended) A crank shaft power takeoff system according to claim [[1]] 6, wherein the accessory is a blower/vacuum assembly.
4. (Currently amended) A crank shaft power takeoff system according to claim [[1]] 6, wherein the appliance is a lawn mower and the accessory is a blower/vacuum assembly.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended) A crank shaft power takeoff system ~~according to claim 1,~~  
comprising:

an appliance comprising an engine that includes a crank shaft;

an accessory used in conjunction with the appliance; and

a transmission for utilizing the crank shaft of the appliance engine to operate the accessory, wherein the transmission comprises:

a first pulley housing;

a second pulley housing pivotally connected to the first pulley housing;

a belt oriented within the first and second pulley housings; and

an engagement assembly for pivoting the second pulley housing relative to the first pulley housing to selectably tighten or loosen the belt, thereby activating or deactivating the accessory, respectively, as desired.

7. (Currently amended) A crank shaft power takeoff system according to claim 6, wherein the engagement assembly comprises:

an engagement lever oriented for manipulation by an operator of the appliance;

an engagement plate fixedly secured to the engagement lever, the engagement plate being oriented in the first pulley housing;

a receiving rod secured to the second pulley housing;

an engagement rod connecting the engagement plate to the receiving rod; and

wherein movement of the engagement lever into an engaged position by the operator of the appliance pivots the second pulley housing relative to the first pulley housing, thereby tightening the belt and engaging the system.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A crank shaft power takeoff system according to claim ~~[[8]]~~ 12, wherein the appliance is a lawn mower.

10. (Currently amended) A crank shaft power takeoff system according to claim ~~[[8]]~~ 12, wherein the accessory is a blower/vacuum assembly.

11. (Currently amended) A crank shaft power takeoff system according to claim ~~[[8]]~~ 12, wherein the appliance is a lawn mower and the accessory is a blower/vacuum assembly.

12. (Currently amended) A crank shaft power takeoff system ~~according to claim 8~~, comprising:

an appliance comprising an engine that includes a crank shaft;

an accessory used in conjunction with the appliance; and

a transmission for utilizing the crank shaft of the appliance engine to operate the

accessory, said transmission comprising ~~wherein the transmission comprises:~~

a plurality of pulleys;

a first pulley housing;

a second pulley housing pivotally connected to the first pulley housing;

at least one belt carried on two of the pulleys and ~~[[a belt]]~~ oriented within the first and second pulley housings; and

~~wherein tension on the belt may be manipulated to activate or deactivate the accessory, as desired~~ an engagement assembly for pivoting the second pulley housing relative to the first pulley housing to selectably tighten or loosen the belt, thereby activating or deactivating the accessory, respectively, as desired.

13. (Previously presented) A crank shaft power takeoff system according to claim 12, wherein the engagement assembly comprises:

an engagement lever oriented for manipulation by an operator of the appliance;

an engagement plate fixedly secured to the engagement lever, the engagement plate being oriented in the first pulley housing;

a receiving rod secured to the second pulley housing;

an engagement rod connecting the engagement plate to the receiving rod; and

wherein movement of the engagement lever into an engaged position by the operator of the appliance pivots the second pulley housing relative to the first pulley housing, thereby tightening the belt and engaging the system.

14. (Canceled)

15. A method for utilizing motion of a crank shaft according to claim ~~[[14]]~~ 19, wherein said

appliance is a lawn mower.

16. A method for utilizing motion of a crank shaft according to claim [[14]] 19, wherein said accessory is a blower/vacuum assembly.

17. A method for utilizing motion of a crank shaft according to claim [[14]] 19, wherein said appliance is a lawn mower and said accessory is a blower/vacuum assembly.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A method for utilizing motion of a crank shaft ~~according to claim 14, said method comprising the steps of:~~

providing an appliance comprising an engine that includes a crank shaft;

providing an accessory used in conjunction with the appliance;

utilizing motion of the crank shaft to activate the accessory, wherein said crank shaft utilizing step comprises the steps of:

providing:

a first pulley housing;

a second pulley housing pivotally connected to the first pulley housing;

a belt oriented within the first and second pulley housings;

an engagement assembly; and

utilizing the engagement assembly to pivot the second pulley housing relative to the first pulley housing to tighten the belt, thereby activating the accessory.

20. (Previously presented) A method for utilizing motion of a crank shaft according to claim 19, wherein:

said engagement assembly comprises:

an engagement lever oriented for manipulation by an operator of the appliance;

an engagement plate fixedly secured to the engagement lever, the engagement plate being oriented in the first pulley housing;

a receiving rod secured to the second pulley housing;

an engagement rod connecting the engagement plate to the receiving rod; and

said engagement assembly utilizing step is performed by moving the engagement lever into an engaged position.